REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding final Office Action mailed November 2, 2004. Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claims 2 – 4 and 6 remain pending. In particular, Applicants have amended claims 2 and 6, and have canceled claims 5 and 7 without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Applicants have canceled claims 5 and 7 merely to reduce the number of disputed issues and to facilitate early allowance and issuance of other claims in the present application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of these canceled claims in a continuing application, if Applicants so choose, and do not intend to dedicate the canceled subject matter to the public. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Office Action indicates that claims 2 – 5 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Phan* in view of *Hawkins*. Additionally, the Office Action indicates that claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Phan* in view of *Hawkins* and *Dan*. With respect to claims 5 and 7, Applicants have canceled these claims and respectfully assert that the rejection as to these claims has been rendered moot. With respect to the remaining claims, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Turning first to the Office Action, <u>Applicants respectfully agree with the Examiner's contention that *Phan* does not specifically teach associating a first number with a first actuator without accessing a menu</u>. However, Applicants respectfully disagree with the contention that *Phan* teaches that the speed dial system enables the user to associate the phone number with the first actuator by only using number keys.

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In this regard, *Phan* discloses:

> *In step 615, the user presses a program soft key 540 on the screen 500, which activates a program mode in the MFP 110a.* Next, the user selects a soft one-touch key 515 (step 620). The MFP 110a then display s a label entry screen (step 625) and allows the user to designate a label for the selected soft one-touch key 515 (step 630). The MFP 110a preferably displays a soft alphanumeric keypad from which the user may enter the label, and a soft key for the user to press when the user has finished entering the label. The label and the entered phone number(s) are then stored, along with their association to the selected soft one-touch key (step 640).

> It can be seen that the process of assigning labels and phone numbers to a soft one-touch key is a database management process, with the labels and phone numbers comprising records in the database. Although the database could be stored in the MFP 110a, it is preferably stored in the Host 110b as part of the facsimile UI definition. (Phan at col. 11, line 65 – col. 12, line 14). (Emphasis Added).

Applicants respectfully assert that the above-mentioned portion of *Phan* clearly discloses that the user is required to actuate a program soft key 540 for associating a first phone number with a first actuator. Therefore, only using number keys is not taught or reasonably suggested by *Phan*.

With respect to *Hawkins*, the Office Action indicates that *Hawkins* teaches "if a phone number is not associated with a speed dial list, enabling a user to associate a first phone number with a speed dial list without accessing a menu." However, as an initial matter, Applicants respectfully point out that claim 2 does not recite "associating a phone number with a speed dial list" and refers instead to "a first actuator." Additionally, Applicants respectfully disagree with the contention that *Hawkins* accomplishes associating a phone number with a first actuator without accessing a menu. In this regard, Applicants respectfully refer the Examiner's attention to column 7, line 49 – column 8, line 50, which discloses the use of a speed dial page 500 and an edit speed dial page 600 that are used for associating a first phone number with *Hawkin's* speed dial list. Clearly, use of the edit speed dial page 600 constitutes a menu that displays actuators for providing various functionality used for

associating a number with a speed dial list. Therefore, in contrast to Applicants' claims,

Hawkins clearly uses a menu.

Turning now to the claims, claim 2 recites:

> 2. A system for establishing a communication link with a first computing device, the first computing device having a phone number associated therewith, said system comprising:
> a second computing device having a speed-dial system, a first actuator and a menu, said computing device being configured to transmit image data, said menu being configured to enable programming of said second computing device, said speed-dial system being configured to:
> receive a first user input corresponding to actuation of said first actuator;
> in response to the actuation of said first actuator, determine whether a phone number is associated with said first actuator; and
> if a phone number is not associated with said first actuator, enable the user to associate a first phone number with said first actuator without accessing said menu such that, after the user associates a phone number with the first actuator, said second computing device speed-dials the phone number in response to actuation of said first actuator to establish a communication link with the first computing device;
> wherein said computing device includes number keys; and
> **wherein, if a phone number is not associated with said first actuator, said speed-dial system enables the user to associate the phone number with said first actuator by only using said number keys.**
> (Emphasis Added).

Applicants respectfully assert that the cited references, either individually or in

combination, are legally deficient for the purpose of rendering obvious claim 2. Specifically,

Applicants respectfully assert that *Phan* does not teach or reasonably suggest at least "enable

the user to associate a first phone number with said first actuator without accessing said

menu," (because *Phan* uses such a menu) and "wherein, upon actuation of said first actuator,

said speed dial system enables the user to associate the phone number with said first actuator

by only using said number keys" (because *Phan* and *Hawkins* require the use of such a menu).

Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection is improper and that claim 2 is in

condition for allowance. Since claims 3 – 4 are dependent claims that incorporate all the

features/limitations of claim 2, and are not otherwise rejected in the action, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims also are in condition for allowance.

With respect to the rejection of claim 6, Applicants respectfully assert that the asserted combination of *Phan*, *Hawkins* and *Dan* is legally deficient for the purpose of rendering obvious claim 6. Specifically, Applicants respectfully assert that *Dan* does not teach or reasonably suggest at least the features/limitations that are emphasized above in claim 2 as lacking in the combination of *Phan* and *Hawkins*. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection of claim 6 is improper and respectfully request that claim 6 be placed in condition for allowance.
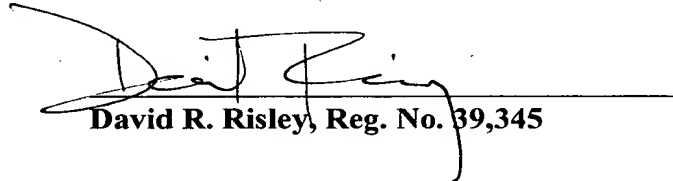
Cited Art Made of Record

The cited art made of record has been considered, but is not believed to affect the patentability of the presently pending claims.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the now pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.
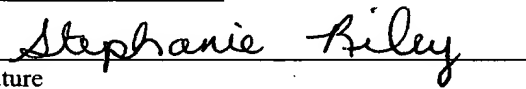
Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first c lass mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on _12 / 8 /04_ .

Stephanie Riley
Signature